

I. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Original) A single vessel containing N-hydrosuccinimide (NHS), a water-soluble carbodiimide and a label containing an amine or a carboxyl moiety, these components being in a single vessel in dry form suitable for rehydration at pH about 7.
2. (Original) A method for conjugating label to target moiety comprising:
 - a placing a label, NHS, and a carbodiimide in a container such that the three components are sequestered from reaction with each other;
 - b storing the components in dry form; and
 - c hydrating the components to initiate reaction between them,
wherein a target moiety is conjugated to the label.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the target is added at the time the components are hydrated.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the target is added subsequent to hydrating the components.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) A single vessel containing a label derivatized with one functionality of a heterofunctional reagent and means for activating an activating reagent specific for activation the unreacted functionality of the heterofunctional reagent or its reaction partner, these components being in a single vessel in dry form suitable for rehydration. *deriv. label in dry form*
8. (New) A method of conjugating a label to a target moiety, comprising the following steps:
 - i. step for preparing a derivitized label wherein one functionality of a heterofunctional reagent is covalently linked to a label;
 - ii. step for preparing a container containing,

(1) derivatized label, and

(2) means for activating an unreacted functionality of the heterofunctional reagent or its reaction partner, such that said derivatized label and said means are sequestered;

iii. step for releasing sequestration of said derivatized label and said means to permit reaction in the presence of a target moiety, whereby the target moiety is conjugated to the derivatized label.

9. (New) A method of conjugating label to target moiety according to claim 8, comprising:

a. derivatizing a label containing primary or secondary amines with a heterobifunctional reagent having a maleimide functionality;

b. placing maleimide derivatized label in a container with a reductant in dry form;

c. hydrating label and reductant; and

d. removing reductant in the presence of a target moiety, whereby the target moiety is conjugated to the label.

10. (New) A single vessel containing a label and a bifunctional reagent, these components being in dry form suitable for rehydration at pH about 7, wherein upon rehydration said bifunctional reagent reacts with the said label.

11. (New) The single vessel according to claim 10, wherein the label is a phycobiliprotein.

12. (New) The single vessel according to claim 10, wherein the bifunctional reagent is SMCC (Succinimidyl-4-(N-Maleimidomethyl)Cyclohexane-1-Carboxylate) or SPDP (N-Succinimidyl 3-(2-pyridylthio)propionate).